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THE URBAN DISTRICT OF CASTLEFORD



# ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

*Year ended 31st December, 1953*



Medical Officer for Health and Divisional Medical Officer for Maternity  
and Child Welfare and School Medical Services:

J. M. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

E. J. WINFIELD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.



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Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

E. J. Winfield, M.R.San.I. M.S.I.A. A.M.Inst.P.C.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLEFORD

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

as at 31st December, 1953.

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Cr. A. Pickersgill, C.C.

Vice-Chairman.

Cr. C. Dews, J.P. C.C.

Councillors.

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DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER.

J. M. Paterson, M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H. M.R.San.I.

ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICERS  
FOR MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE, and  
SCHOOL MEDICAL WORK.

Miss D. J. Haiste, M.B. Ch.B.

P. J. Solan, M.B. B.Ch. B.A.O. D.P.H. - Appointed 5th July, 1953.

PART-TIME MEDICAL OFFICERS - Maternity & Child Welfare.

E. W. L. White, M.B. Ch.B. - Medical Officer for Sagar Street Ante-Natal Clinic.

C. M. Hawick, M.A. B.Sc., M.B. Ch.B. - Medical Officer for Airedale Infant Welfare  
and Ante-Natal Clinics.

D. K. Shuttleworth, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. - Medical Officer for Glasshoughton Infant Welfare  
and Ante-Natal Clinics.

A. G. James, M.B. Ch.B. - Medical Officer for Sagar Street Infant Welfare Clinic.

I. Butler, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. - Medical Officer for Hightown Infant Welfare  
and Ante-Natal Clinics.

PAEDIATRICIAN.

J. D. Pickup, M.D. (Distinc.), M.B. Ch.B. D.C.H.

OPHTHALMIC SURGEON.

L. Wittels, M.D. (Vienna) D.O.

E.N.T. SURGEON.

K. M. Mayall, M.A. M.B. B.Chir. M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. D.L.O.

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON.

A. J. S. Bell-Tawse, B.A. M.B. B.Chir. F.R.C.S. L.R.C.P.

HEALTH VISITORS.

E. Cooke, S.R.N. S.C.M. R.F.N. H.V.  
F. G. Wrightson, S.R.N. S.C.M.N. H.V.  
J. Brooks, S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.  
E. W. Hilton, S.R.N.  
I. J. Robinson, S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.  
M. A. Dalton, S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.

Telephone Numbers

Featherstone 245  
Castleford 2303  
Castleford 2005  
Castleford 2217

TUBERCULOSIS HEALTH VISITOR.

A. Eades, S.R.N. S.C.M.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANT HEALTH VISITORS

G. M. Willshaw, S.R.N.  
B. A. Morgan, S.R.N.

SCHOOL NURSE.

M. E. Kelly, S.R.N.



MIDWIVES.Telephone Numbers

M. Ball, S.C.M., 16 Churchfield Lane, Glasshoughton. Castleford 2077  
D. Briggs, S.C.M., 47 School St., Wheldon Rd., Castleford. Castleford 2344  
★ D. Cousins, S.R.N. S.C.M., 1 Barnsdale Est., Cutsyke, Castleford. Castleford 2314  
E. J. Dawson, S.C.M., 47 Beancroft Road, Castleford. Castleford 2087  
★ B. M. Fukes, S.R.N. S.C.M., 128 Smawthorne Lane, Castleford. Castleford 2413  
G. M. Kisby, S.R.N. S.C.M., 132 Redhill Drive, Airedale -  
Resigned 30th September, 1953. }  
V. M. Newby, S.R.N. S.C.M., 6 Aketon Rd., Hightown, Castleford. - }  
Resigned 30th September, 1953. }  
D. H. Taylor, S.C.M., 23 Ferrybridge Road, Castleford. Castleford 2703.  
M. Wylie, S.C.M., 25 Hulme Square, Airedale - Appointed 2nd December, 1953. Castleford 3485

## ★ Relief Midwives.

HOME NURSES.

K. Ella, S.R.N. Q.I.D.N., "Dorcliffe", Cambridge St., Castleford - }  
Resigned 17th May, 1953. }  
F. Farber, S.R.N. S.C.M., "Normanhurst", Hightown, Castleford. Castleford 2555  
E. Slayton, S.R.N. A.R.R.C., 169 Fryston Road, Airedale -  
Resigned 31st March, 1953. }  
★ P. I. Mashford, S.R.N. S.C.M. Q.I.D.N. R.S.C.N., Normanton 2112  
24 Pearson St., Altofts, Normanton.  
B. Dixon, S.R.N. Q.I.D.N., 10 The Mount, Airedale. Castleford 3102

## ★ Relief Home Nurse.

ASSISTANT HOME NURSES.

L. Ainsworth, S.E.A.N., 6 Victoria St., Whitwood Mere, Castleford.  
J. Baxter, S.E.A.N., Cawood Villas, Barnes Road, Castleford. Castleford 2074



# THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLEFORD

## ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

1953

To the Chairman and Members of the Castleford Urban District Council.

I have the honour of presenting to you this, my thirteenth Annual Report, being a report on the health of your district for the year 1953.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (Acres).....	4,394
Population (Estimated R.G. 1953).....	42,580
Population (Estimated R.G. 1938).....	43,090
Number of Inhabited houses 1953.....	12,018
Number of Inhabited houses 1938.....	11,026
Rateable Value.....	£194,382
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£752
Density of Population.....	9.69 persons per acre.

The Urban District is divided into 10 Wards, namely:-

Airedale, Carlton, Fryston, Glasshoughton,  
Half Acres, Redhill, Smawthorne, Wheldale-  
Lock Lane, Whitwood and Whitwood Mere.

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### BIRTHS

		Male	Female	Total
Live.	Legitimate.....	334	295	629
	Illegitimate.....	18	11	29
		<u>352</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>658</u>
Still.	Legitimate.....	11	8	19
	Illegitimate.....	1	-	1
		<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20</u>
Total Births.....		<u>364</u>	<u>314</u>	<u>678</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Home Population	-	15.45	(Corrected 15.91)	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Home Population	-	0.47	(Corrected 0.48)	

#### LIVE BIRTH RATES (per 1,000 Home Population).

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Live Birth Rate for Castleford.	18.8	19.7	16.6	16.5	16.99	15.45
Live Birth Rate for England & Wales.	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5
Live Birth Rate for the West Riding ) Administrative County. )	18.5	17.2	16.3	15.8	15.4	15.7

#### STILL BIRTH RATES (per 1,000 Live & Still Births).

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Still Birth Rate for Castleford.	28.6	26.1	34.6	19.4	30.6	29.5
Still Birth Rate for England & Wales.	23.18	22.67	22.7	23.0	22.6	22.4

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE - NEO NATAL DEATHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	8	5	13
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>14</u>

	<u>Castleford.</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
--	--------------------	-----------------------------

Death Rate of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births. 21.28 17.70

DEATHS OF INFANTS FROM PREMATURETY (included in Neo-Natal Deaths).

<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
6	2	8

Death Rate of infants from Prematurity per 1,000 live births - 12.15

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	13	9	22
Illegitimate	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>25</u>

	<u>Castleford.</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
--	--------------------	-----------------------------

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. 37.99 27.0

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
<u>All infants per 1,000 live births.</u>						
Castleford	47	49	38	23	41	38
England & Wales	34	32	33	29	28	27
<u>Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.</u>						
Castleford	49	49	38	20	40	35
<u>Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.</u>						
Castleford	-	40	50	57	67	103

DIARRHOEAL DEATH RATES OF INFANTS  
UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE  
(Per 1,000 Live Births)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Castleford</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
1949	1.17	3.0
1950	5.52	1.9
1951	4.24	1.4
1952	0.00	1.1
1953	0.00	1.1

DEATH RATES (per 1,000 Home Population).

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
All causes (Corrected 11.52)	9.44	9.67
Infective and parasitic diseases, excluding Tuberculosis.	0.05	0.02
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	0.26	0.19
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	0.09	0.02
Tuberculosis - all forms.	0.35	0.21
Cancer.	1.57	1.64
Vascular lesions of the nervous system.	1.22	0.91
Heart and Circulatory.	3.10	3.46
Respiratory Diseases.	1.33	1.38

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS - 1953.

	<u>Castleford</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
<u>Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births.</u>		
1) Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium.	-	0.10
2) Abortion with toxæmia.	-	0.01
3) Other toxæmias of pregnancy and puerperium.	-	0.24
4) Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth.	-	0.13
5) Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia.	-	0.04
6) Abortion with sepsis.	-	0.06
7) Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.	-	0.18
	<u>-</u>	<u>0.76</u>

Death Rates per 1,000 Home Population.

All causes (Corrected 11.52)	9.44	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	0.01
Diphtheria.	-	-
Tuberculosis.	0.35	0.20
Influenza.	0.09	0.16
Smallpox.	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis).	-	0.01
Pneumonia.	0.40	0.55

DEATHS.

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
222	180	402

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Deaths taken from the Registrar General's Tables).

	<u>1953</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	8	3	11
Tuberculosis, Other forms.	2	2	4
Syphilitic Disease.	2	-	2
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	3	7	10
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	8	1	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	6	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	21	12	33
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
carried forward.	45	39	84



	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
brought forward	45	39	84
Diabetes.	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	27	25	52
Coronary disease, angina.	26	18	44
Hypertension with heart disease.	2	7	9
Other heart disease.	40	32	72
Other circulatory disease.	3	4	7
Influenza.	2	2	4
Pneumonia.	7	10	17
Bronchitis.	22	9	31
Other diseases of respiratory system.	4	1	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis.	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of prostate.	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
Congenital malformations.	4	2	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	22	19	41
Motor vehicle accidents.	3	-	3
All other accidents.	5	6	11
Suicide.	3	1	4
Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-
TOTAL:	<u>222</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>402</u>

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

In common with the rest of the country, Castleford has since 1950 shown a definite tendency towards a lower live birth rate, and probably for the first time in the history of the town the live birth rate for 1953 is less than that of the national average.

Our still birth rate, neo-natal mortality rate (more than 50% of which consists of infants under one month of age dying from prematurity) and our infant mortality rate (infants under one year of age) are all in excess of the national rates, but in every instance it has been found that they are not excessive when compared with the local West Riding comparable rates. Not a little of this can be explained by the fact that Castleford is an industrial area with a high artisan population.

In marked contrast to these rates, however, the Maternal Mortality rate is Nil and the deeper meaning of this will be more fully appreciated when it is stated that this has only happened five times over a period of more than twenty years.

Significantly enough too, our crude death rate stands at 9.4 (adjusted rate 11.5) and it is refreshing to note that it has been consistently falling since 1950 in which year the crude death rate stood at 11.5.

In the realm of infectious diseases the death rate is Nil except in the case of Pneumonia, Influenza and Tuberculosis, and the Diarrhoeal death rate for infants under two years of age is also Nil which compares favourably with the England and Wales rate of 1.1 per 1,000 live births. For the second year in succession, we have not had a single death in children under two years of age from diarrhoeal causes.

The total Cancer death rate is slightly below the figure for the previous year but it is noteworthy that in 1953 there were 9 deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus, 8 of which were in men. National interest in this latter form of Cancer is rapidly growing and evidence is slowly but nevertheless surely accumulating which reveals a significant and steadily rising mortality from lung cancer as the amount of tobacco smoked increases. One cigarette smoked represents 1 gramme of tobacco fumes inhaled and an ounce a week of tobacco represents 4 grammes per day, and it has been found that there is a statistically significant rise in the lung cancer death rate in those who smoke 25 or more grammes per day.

Coronary disease is also linked up with tobacco smoking, though to a considerably lesser extent and we find there were 44 deaths locally from this disease, 28 of whom were men and 16 women.

#### SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF AN AGEING POPULATION.

Most of us are fully alive to the social problems arising out of the ever-growing population of ageing persons in the community but since a not inconsiderable part of the concrete evidence necessarily associated with a subject of this nature is masked by unavoidable statistical data, it is not to be wondered at if difficulty is experienced in evaluating its significance. Moreover, it must be remembered that what is happening in this direction nationally is also taking place locally in Castleford and in view of the importance attaching to the subject it was felt that this would be an appropriate time to enlarge on it under the heading of Vital Statistics. An attempt has therefore been made in this report to show the alteration that has steadily been taking place in the age structure of the population over the last half century, followed by some of the implications and observations on how the matter is being tackled.

On the basis of the death rates supplied for the year 1902 it has been ascertained that a child born in 1903, if it were a boy, had an expectation of life of 48 years and if a girl, of 52 years, whilst in 1953 on the basis of the death rates supplied for the year 1952, the expectation of life for a boy had risen to 67 years and for a girl to 72 years. Thus, the passage of 50 years has seen an increase in the span of human life of some 20 years, a truly remarkable phenomenon, and the credit for this achievement is due in no small measure to the untiring efforts of all those sociologists, doctors, scientists, administrators etc. who have seen the need to focus their detailed knowledge on to this subject with a view to improving our lot now and in later life. Just as the resolution of one problem, however, not infrequently brings one or more in its trail, so we now find ourselves having to get a better appreciation of the wants of older people as well as to provide for their economic requirements, and these we are in the process of sorting out at the moment.

One would expect as a direct result of prolonging the life span that the gross numbers of the population would have increased over the half century and this is just what has happened. Expressed in actual fact, we find that in the year 1903 the population of England and Wales stood at 33 millions, whereas by 1953 it had risen by one third again to 44 millions, and on the evidence at present available it is estimated that by 1983 it will have risen by a further 3 millions to 47 millions. Put more graphically, between 1903 and 1953 the population of this country rose by 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % and in another 30 years it is estimated that it will rise by a further 7%. In the face of such competing figures it is difficult to escape the conclusion that during the passage of this period of time there must have been structural alterations in our various age groups and in a survey recently carried out, this view has amply been confirmed. As a basis on which to work, the survey took a random sample of one thousand of the population, divided them into three arbitrary age groups and



compared the data obtained in 1901 with that obtained in 1947. These are tabulated as follows:-

Persons in Age Groups.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>0 - 25</u>	<u>25 - 65.</u>	<u>65 plus.</u>
1901	520	433	47
1947	352	542	107
Percentage decrease or increase.	32.3% decrease.	25.17% increase.	127.6% increase.

From this table it will be seen at a glance that important structural changes have been taking place in our population in all three age groups and it is extremely significant that whereas there has been a 32% decrease in our 0 - 25 population there has also been a 128% increase in our 65 plus population. Some comparative idea of the ever increasing magnitude of the problem may be visualised when it is stated that between December, 1952 and December, 1953, in England and Wales, a further 68,000 persons entered into this 65 plus age group and the growing consensus of opinion is that some radical alteration will have to take place in our social set up to compensate for the change in the age structure. In this direction it is of interest to note even now that added inducements are being held out to those becoming entitled to a retirement pension under the National Insurance scheme to carry on for a few more years provided they have the health and strength to do so. Furthermore, a considerable amount of experimental work is being carried out by industrial firms and by Local Authorities to determine the types of work for which these people are best suited.

Under the National Assistance Act, it is the duty of the welfare authority of the County Council to provide residential accommodation for old people in need of care and attention, and to comply with this requirement it has, locally, modernised existing old Poor Law accommodation and has acquired houses suitable for conversion. Further extensions of this kind are still urgently required and the homeliness and comfort which they provide, linked with the freedom from restriction, is always the keynote in the management and provision of homes of this nature. On entering such accommodation, pensioners are allowed to retain their pensions and after paying for their keep usually have 6s. 6d. left over as pocket money. Not all of these admissions, however, are of a voluntary nature and the Medical Officer of Health on occasion, and much against his will, finds himself required to take action statutorily to ensure that old persons who are incapacitated or who are aged and infirm get that attention of which they are in such need but of which they so steadfastly refuse to avail themselves.

Although the attitude of old people is rapidly changing in regard to making use of residential accommodation, it is found in practice that the majority of them prefer to be independent and live in their own homes as they have always been accustomed to do for so long in the past. Housing Authorities have, therefore, been encouraged to make provision for such needs and it is of interest to note that in addition to the 57 pre-war houses built for old persons in Castleford, 46 post-war bungalows or flats have been completed, and a further 18 semi-detached bungalows are in the course of erection in one of our new housing estates.

To study the needs of old people and to encourage and promote measures for their well-being, old people's welfare committees have been set up all over the country and in England and Wales there are even now over 1000 of these committees in existence. In Castleford, such a committee has been in operation for a few years now and the work it is doing is keeping well abreast of the demands put upon it. There are three recreation centres, ten clubs, a system of home visiting for the aged sick, and a chiropody service, all doing a grand job of work in keeping up the morale of these people.

Our Health Visitors visit the aged in their homes, helping them with their multiple problems, contacting and co-operating with the various other Welfare Departments and voluntary bodies to meet the needs of the various and fluctuating circumstances. There is a very human aspect to this work, since by means of it, aged people of all classes are made to feel that they are not forgotten, and the enthusiasm with which they receive the Health Visitor into their homes shows their appreciation of the help which she gives them; not least of all, they confide in her all matters personal or otherwise. During the year, 3120 visits were made by



Health visitors to 201 aged persons.

The home nurses also play a very great part in this service, by administering to the needs of the aged sick and infirm. This service, often combined with the Home Help service, allows the patients to retain the comfort of their own homes where otherwise it would be necessary to seek residential accommodation or geriatric hospital facilities. During 1953 Home Nurses attended 286 and Home Helps assisted 160 aged persons.

The social problem of old age thus is one in which each and everyone of us is vitally interested and to arrive at a satisfactory solution demands that it be tackled in a most realistic manner. Some idea of the extent of the social (and also the medical) implications will be realised when it is stated that in 1932, only 1 in every 13 of the population in this country was 65 years or over, whilst in 1952 this ratio fell to 1 in 9 and in 1982 it is reckoned that it will stand at 1 in 6. Some 150 years ago, when this ratio was in the region of 1 in 16, Thomas Malthus in his celebrated inquiry into the nature and causes of poverty maintained that too many children were being born, thus overloading the infant population of the community. Nowadays the tendency is for the unbalancing effect to manifest itself at the opposite end of the scale. Olden civilisations, cultured as well as primitive, not infrequently shelved their responsibilities towards their aged dependants by liquidating them, but since our moral code rightly prohibits such a policy, effective ways and means are being worked out to solve the problem in a more humane manner.

# TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications. 41	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
At all ages	25	14	2	-	7	2	1	1
Under 1 year	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 10	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
55 - 65	5	1	-	-	4	1	-	-
Over 65	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
No age	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Comparison between numbers on  
Tuberculosis Register  
in 1952 and 1953.

	1952			1953		
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
(a) Number of cases on register 1st January.	284	71	355	278	73	351
(b) New cases notified during the year.	39	7	46	39	2	41
(c) Restored to register.	1	-	1	-	-	-
(d) TOTALS	324	78	402	317	75	392
(e) Number of cases removed from register during the year.	46	5	51	20	21	41
(f) Number of cases left on register at the end of the year.	278	73	351	297	54	351

MINIATURE MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY.

In my last annual report I stated that provisional arrangements had been made to hold a further Miniature Mass Radiography Survey in Castleford during 1953, and this step had become all the more needful owing to the not inconsiderable difficulty experienced in drawing any definite conclusions from the 1951 survey. Out of the 2,234 persons x-rayed then, 17 were presumed active and referred to the Chest Physician for further investigation. This number, equivalent to a rate of just under 8 per 1000, was well in excess of what one would normally expect to find from such a survey, but it was felt on the other hand, that the gross total was too small on which to base any definite statistical conclusions, and the only satisfactory means of settling the point at issue lay in holding another survey at an early date.

In order to make this local survey sufficiently comprehensive and factual it was felt necessary from the very commencement that three major considerations would have to be kept in mind throughout the planning stages. The basic principle in any such survey aims at providing adequate facilities for the examination of members of the general public who may wish to avail themselves of this service, and this essential was duly observed. Again, priority groups such as nurses, those engaged in industrial occupations in which there was a possibility of lung irritation sufficient to initiate degenerative changes, and others, also had to be given adequate consideration. Finally, since so little was known concerning the early incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in our coal mining community which constitutes considerably more than 50% of all local industries, it was considered timely to carry out some pioneer work in this direction. It is a generally accepted truth that the person on the spot knows more about local conditions than a stranger does and I am glad to say that my offer to be of assistance was welcomed by the authority responsible for this service. Minor difficulties previously experienced were smoothed out and in my capacity as School Medical Officer, I was also able to arrange transport facilities, the lack of which could have had deleterious effects on the results of this aspect of the survey. Discussions which I had had on previous occasions with members of the local mining community had firmly convinced me that if we were to gain their active support and confidence, a modified form of approach would have to be evolved, and the idea was finally approved of inviting the active co-operation and assistance of the local Chest Physician on this survey. This was freely given and in due course arrangements were made for a team consisting of the Medical Officer of Health, the Chest Physician and the Miniature Mass Radiography Area Organiser to meet the Colliery Consultative Committee composed of representatives of the management and men at each of the four collieries in Castleford. The mode of procedure at these meetings was for the Medical Officer of Health to start the ball rolling by discussing the problems involved in connection with Tuberculosis from the angle of preventative medicine, the Chest Physician to follow by developing the theme of the disease complex involved and its dangers, and for the lay organiser to wind up by discussing the proposed survey from the physical organisation angle. That these joint meetings completely served their purpose was obvious from the active interest shown during the discussions and also by the searching nature of the questions asked during question time. I am led to believe also that during the subsequent operational phase of the survey, the response of the men at the collieries was, on



the whole, considerably better than the results obtained from other surveys where the normal method of procedure had been followed. Needless to say, these meetings would not have been possible had it not been for the welcome co-operation of the Area General Manager, the National Coal Board medical officers concerned, the managers, and not least, the men on the Consultative Committees.

The survey in Castleford lasted for approximately four weeks and was spread intermittently over a period commencing on the 4th March and ending on the 20th May, 1953. The general public, and the priority groups including school leavers, attended sessions arranged for them at the Salvation Army Hall situated in the centre of Castleford which temporarily housed the Unit, and arrangements were also made at three out of the four collieries in Castleford to provide the necessary accommodation and facilities for the Unit somewhere in the pit yards. Unfortunately, it was impossible in the case of the fourth colliery for this arrangement to be made and this latter survey had to be undertaken well out of this divisional area, so that the final results from the statistical angle were not as comprehensive as could have been wished. This point, however, will be kept in mind during future surveys.

Below are tabled the statistical results of the complete survey as nearly as possible as it affected Castleford residents, and the compilation of this part of the report has only been possible from data supplied by the Director of the Miniature Mass Radiography Unit concerned, who also proved to be most co-operative in every way possible during the active phase of the survey.

Population of Castleford - approx. 43,000			
	Miners.	Industrial groups, W.R.C.C. employees, Hospital Management, School Children.	Total.
Number examined.	2277	2592	4869
Number previously examined.	471	463	935
Percentage previously examined.	20.7%	17.8%	19.2%
Number recalled and examined by large skiagram.	115	126	241
Percentage recalled and examined by large skiagram.	5.5%	4.8%	4.95%
Number clinically examined by M.M.R. Medical Director.	85	75	160
Percentage clinically examined by M.M.R. Medical Director.	3.72%	2.89%	3.28%
Number presumed active.	13	2	15
Rate presumed active, per 1000 examined.	5.7	0.77	3.08
Number presumed inactive.	16	11	27
Rate presumed inactive, per 1000 examined.	7.03	4.24	5.54

The rates worked out from this local comprehensive survey show that there is no undue need for apprehension to exist locally regarding any tendency towards an increase in the incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in this area, though the future rates for the mining community will have to be watched. The flat rate of 3.08 per 1000 compares quite favourably with the surveys carried out in other areas but I do feel that, most important of all, now that the ice has been broken locally and the preliminary survey completed, it would be extremely helpful if future surveys could be arranged to follow at regularly spaced intervals. In this way, continued interest in the subject of Pulmonary Tuberculosis would be sustained and fresh cases which had developed, though not discovered, since the previous survey would automatically be diagnosed and dealt with.

The practical experience gained from this local survey prompts me to make the following observations.

(1) In "working up" a campaign of this nature, the more channels we have for the dissemination of information, the more publicity we can give it and, in proportion, the greater the degree of success that can be anticipated. Preventive medicine knows no barriers and whilst it is the duty of the Regional Hospital Board to operate this service, other allied services within the National Health Service Act could give considerable assistance towards its final success. In this connection, it is

known that in similar surveys the participation of the district authority has been invited with considerable success, and I feel a like policy could be followed here. The detailed local knowledge of members and of officers could be used to very good advantage. Our health visitors under the National Health Service Act, as members of the local health authority, and by the very terms and nature of their work in the home, are immediately put in a very favourable position to act as health educators in a way denied to other field workers in this most important aspect of the social service. What they have done in the past and are continuing to do in the present in the interests of Diphtheria prevention, they can do again in campaigns directed towards the eradication of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

(2) In the Ministry of Health report for 1951 it is stated that Miniature Mass Radiography Surveys are responsible for detecting 15% of all new notified cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and further extensions to the service are badly needed. Whilst it is everywhere agreed that it should be available to every member of the community, no great stretch of imagination is required to foresee that certain persons in the community, by reason of their employment can, if infected, act as a primary focus of the disease, and cause untold harm and misery to others. Such key persons include in their ranks shopkeepers, hairdressers, theatre and cinema attendants, 'bus and tram conductors, teachers, doctors and dentists and, doubtless, others can readily be called to mind. It is reassuring to find that the responsible authority is fully alive to the nature and extent of the problem, and future local surveys will keep this point well in mind.

(3) During the organising phase of Miniature Mass Radiography surveys, although considerable use is being made of press and poster publicity, the vast potentialities attendant on the use of cine films having a direct bearing on the subject of Tuberculosis, and shown to public audiences just before such a survey, appear to be largely undeveloped. Here again is probably a field where local interests and initiative could undoubtedly figure very largely indeed.

#### PROVISION OF HOUSES FOR TUBERCULOUS PERSONS.

During the year, 11 houses were provided for tuberculous persons by the House Letting Sub-Committee.

#### EXTRA NOURISHMENT FOR TUBERCULOUS PERSONS.

Additional nourishment in the form of free milk was made available by the West Riding County Council, and at the end of the year there were 74 persons receiving such free nourishment.

#### B.C.G. VACCINATION.

28 contacts of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were immunised against the disease by means of B.C.G. vaccination.

#### BIOLOGICAL TESTING OF MILK SAMPLES.

Intensive biological testing of samples of milk prior to pasteurisation revealed the fact that 1 in every 24 samples was found to be positive to bovine tuberculosis. The following table shows the ratio of positive samples to the number of samples taken during the last five years.

<u>Year.</u>	
1949.	1 sample positive in every 19 taken.
1950.	1 " " " " 23 "
1951.	1 " " " " 26 "
1952.	1 " " " " 31 "
1953.	1 " " " " 24 "



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1953, BY AGE GROUPS.

Notified Diseases.	Under 1 yr.	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25 & over.	No. age.	Total.	Removed to Hospital
Measles	39	132	203	182	6	1	-	-	563	2
Whooping Cough.	12	35	33	26	2	-	-	-	108	2
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	1	18	46	77	8	2	2	-	154	146
Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Polioencephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notified Diseases	0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 & over.	No. age	Total	Removed to Hospital.
Dysentery	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	8	5	1	-	14	2
Pneumonia	14	6	12	18	9	-	59	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	7	-	-	-	7	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

In Castleford the general state of the immunity of the child population is such that there has not been one confirmed notified case of Diphtheria for over four years. At present, 60% of the 0 - 5 population and 97% of the 5 - 15 population are already immunised against the disease.

An apathy or unwillingness has been manifesting itself during recent years among certain sections of the community against protective immunisation against Diphtheria, due in some measure to an unwillingness on the part of parents of younger children to submit them for protective immunisation, and to the fact that it is known that in a small number of cases there is a definite relationship between the site of injection after the use of certain types of immunising material and the site of paralysis in those cases where Poliomyelitis develops. There has been only one case of Poliomyelitis in Castleford in three years, and parents with young children as yet unprotected against Diphtheria should give serious consideration to the pros and cons of the question. It may be too late to wait until an epidemic of Diphtheria breaks out before seeking protection.

In a recent outbreak of Diphtheria in this country it was found that this disease has lost neither its old time ferocity nor its killing power. In the outbreak in question there were 78 notified cases, none of which had received protective inoculation, with 6 deaths, which gives a death rate of 77 per 1000 cases.

## WHOOPIING COUGH.

One of the main difficulties encountered in protecting children against Whooping Cough in the same effective way as we can against Diphtheria has been due to the fact that an effective vaccine against Whooping Cough has not been available. This defect has, during recent years, been remedied and 456 Castleford children have been protected in this way. The following table shows what has been done in this direction.

### Whooping Cough Immunisation.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Under 6 months.</u>	<u>6 months to 1 year.</u>	<u>1 - 2 years.</u>	<u>2 - 3 years.</u>	<u>3 - 4 years.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1952 (Commencing 1st April).	-	44	51	9	8	112
1953	-	174	105	43	22	344
	-	218	156	52	30	456

## SMALLPOX

Our efforts to protect the community against Smallpox has met with rather more success during 1953 than in previous years. This was due to a large extent to the presence of an outbreak of the disease in areas not too far distant from Castleford. The following table shows the vaccinations and re-vaccinations carried out since 1949.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Under 1 year.</u>	<u>1 year.</u>	<u>2 - 4 years.</u>	<u>5 - 14 years.</u>	<u>15 years or over.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1949 Vaccinated.	3		1	-	-	4
Re-vaccinated.	-		-	-	4	4
1950 Vaccinated.	29		5	4	3	41
Re-vaccinated.	-		-	-	16	16
1951 Vaccinated.	26	1	4	4	22	57
Re-vaccinated.	-	-	1	4	42	47
1952 Vaccinated.	24	1	1	12	15	53
Re-vaccinated.	-	-	-	-	23	23
1953 Vaccinated.	46	7	25	77	153	308
Re-vaccinated.	-	-	-	17	119	136



## FOOD POISONING.

I am pleased to be able to report that during the year under review there was not one confirmed case of Food Poisoning in Castleford.

## PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

### Supply.

Water is purchased in bulk from three neighbouring authorities, namely Wakefield County Borough, Pontefract Municipal Borough and Tadcaster Rural District. An average of 660,000 gallons per day were obtained from Wakefield, 434,000 from Pontefract and 32,000 from Tadcaster during the year. The supplies from Wakefield and Tadcaster are soft in character but that from Pontefract is very hard, the former having a total average hardness of 5.0 degrees clark respectively and the latter of 13.0 degrees clark.

### Purification.

Apart from the purification undertaken at the source of supply, no further action is taken locally except for additional chlorination of water in the reservoirs.

### Consumption.

In 1953 the average daily consumption for Castleford was 1,126,000 gallons, of which 769,000 gallons were used for domestic purposes and 357,000 gallons industrially. There was a sufficiency of water for all uses.

A survey has revealed the fact that the residents of 34 houses collect their water supply from communal stand pipes.

### Bacterial purity.

During the year 383 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. Of these, 12 were reported on as being unsatisfactory, i.e. 3.13%. However, in no instance was a coliform count higher than 6 obtained and on no occasion were the organisms isolated of the bowel type.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948-1951.

### Removal to Hospital or other suitable Premises of persons in need of care and attention.

Once again I am pleased to report that during the year under review it was not necessary to invoke the powers granted under Section 47 of these Acts.

## PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

Our Public Swimming Baths in Florence Street has continued to render a most useful service to that section of the community for whom it is intended, and has proved, if anything, to be more popular than in the year preceding.

Opening on May 1st and closing on September 26th it catered for the needs of close on 56,000 bathers and in order to assess the bacterial purity of the water regular sampling was, of necessity, carried out as a routine. Of the 40 samples taken during the season only one faulty result was obtained and the coliform organism isolated from it was not directly of the bowel type. Four chemical samples were obtained during the season and following the receipt of an unsatisfactory report on one of these, the water was changed on August 2nd.

During the season every effort was made to keep the free chlorine residual in the region of 2 parts per million at all times, but in the face of peak bathing loads which occur at certain times of the day, the Baths Superintendent's task must have been a most difficult one indeed.

There was only one case of Poliomyelitis notified in Castleford during 1953 and as this occurred before the swimming season commenced, this is the third season in succession in which there has not been one case during the summer and autumn. During 1951 and 1952 there were no notified cases at all.

# RELAXATION EXERCISES CLINIC.

During 1953 five courses were held, each of 10 weeks duration. Altogether 58 patients attended the Clinic which is held at "Castledene", Pontefract Road, Castleford, and there was a total of 353 attendances compared with 329 during 1952.

## CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

CENTRE	Days & times of sessions.	No. of sessions during year.	ATTENDANCES				Attending for first time	
			0 - 1	Average per session	1 - 5	Average per session	0 - 1	1 - 5
Airedale Methodist Church, Airedale.	Mondays. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	48	2206	45.95	449	9.35	127	4
Glasshoughton. St. Paul's Institute.	Tuesdays 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	47	2307	49.10	561	11.94	117	-
Sagar Street, Castleford.	Mondays & Thurs. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	96	3695	38.50	1295	13.49	221	-
Whitwood, Oxford Street Methodist Church, Hightown	Mondays 1.30 p.m. - 4 p.m.	48	2354	49.04	370	7.71	117	-
		239	10562	44.19	2675	11.19	582	4

## ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

<u>CENTRE.</u>	<u>No. of sessions.</u>	<u>No. of attendances.</u>	<u>Average per session.</u>	<u>No. attending for first time</u>
Airedale	33	374	11.33	89
Glasshoughton	23	161	7.00	43
Sagar Street	46	422	9.18	109
Whitwood	49	421	8.59	85
	151	1378	9.13	326

Details are given below of the proprietary brands of foods etc., and their uses, which were available at cost price to all women attending the clinics.

Robrex	)	Weaning foods.
Farex	)	
Trufood Cereal	)	
Robinson's Groats	)	
Bovril Beef and Vegetable Weaning Cubes.	)	
Cow & Gate Full Cream	)	Dried milk.
Ostermilk No.1.	)	
Ostermilk No.2.	)	
Trufood Humanised	)	
Trufood Follow-on	)	

Colact	)	
Lactogol	)	
Ambrosia Tablets.	)	To increase lactation in nursing mothers.
Persolate Tablets	)	
Ovaltine	)	
Horlicks	)	
Glucose	)	
Maltoline & Iron	)	
Virsol	)	Baby tonics and Vitamin Concentrates.
Adexolin Drops	)	
Minadex	)	
Roboleine	)	
Vitamin Concentrate	)	
(containing	)	
Vitamins A,B1,C,D)	)	

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
Total number of deliveries - as Midwife.	280	315
Total number of deliveries - as Maternity Nurse.	7	8
Total number of patients ante-natally examined.	329	376
Number of cases delivered under Gas & Air Analgesia.	24.7	27.3
Percentage of domiciliary confinements in Castleford where Gas & Air Analgesia was used.	86.06	84.52

PREMATURE INFANTS (i.e. babies weighing under 5 lbs. 8 ozs. at birth).

		<u>Died.</u>
Number born at home and nursed at home	10	2
Number born at home and nursed in hospital	-	-
Number born and nursed in hospital	<u>34</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>44</u>	<u>10</u>
Number of premature stillbirths	- 8	
Number of premature babies who died) in the neo-natal period, including ) 8 who died directly as a result of ) prematurity	- 10	

ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT CLINIC.

Sessions were held at the Divisional Public Health Office each Tuesday and Friday for children up to 15 years of age, and the rate of attendance was twice per week.

<u>New Cases.</u>		<u>Total Number of Attendances.</u>	
<u>0 - 4.</u>	<u>5 - 15.</u>	<u>0 - 4.</u>	<u>5 - 15.</u>
145	213	2107	3342

HOME HELP SERVICE.

At the end of the year there was the equivalent of 24 full-time Home Helps employed in this Division and the number of cases in Castleford provided with the services of a Home Help during the year was 237, as follows:-

Maternity cases	- 23
Tuberculosis cases	- 7
Chronic cases	- 166
Others	- 41



The increase in the demand for the services of a Home Help over the past six years will be seen from the following table:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Number of cases.</u>
1948	1
1949	38
1950	114
1951	152
1952	191
1953	237

#### HOME NURSING SERVICE.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Number of cases.</u>	<u>Total number of visits.</u>
1952	520	16,575
1953	602	14,157

Average case load in Castleford per Home Nurse - 3,146

Average accepted case load per Home Nurse. - 3,000

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

<u>Number of Schools.</u>	<u>Number of Schools inspected.</u>	
	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
31	13	22

<u>Number of pupils on roll as at 31st December, 1953.</u>	<u>Number of children inspected.</u>	
	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
8287	1327	2335

#### MINOR AILMENTS CLINICS.

There are nine Centres where Minor Ailments Clinics are held in the district, the main one being at Wesley Street. Subsidiary clinics are held at Ashton Road, Cutsyke, Airedale, Fryston, Hightown, Glasshoughton, Whitwood Mere and Wheldon Lane Nursery schools.

<u>Defects treated.</u>	<u>Total number of attendances.</u>
1247	4021

#### MENTAL HEALTH OCCUPATION CENTRE.

Owing to an outbreak of Dysentery in the district and also to the inauguration of a scheme of staggering holidays for miners, the attendances at the Centre were rather lower than in the previous year. In 1952 the total attendances were 6,647 whilst in 1953 they were 5,897.

The year opened with 42 children on the register but by the end of the first term, five of the children were transferred to the newly opened Centre at Wakefield. The balance, however, was soon restored by the admission of further new cases and by the end of the year there were 44 children on the register. One child left to be admitted to an institution.

In view of their ever growing commitments, the ambulance service was experiencing increasing difficulty in being responsible for the continued transport of children to the Centre and on the re-opening after the Christmas recess, a new transport system came into being whereby children in the Castleford and Pontefract areas were transported from various focal points in the district by a private 'bus service, with a paid escort in attendance.

For a variety of reasons there were no open days and no sale of work at the Centre

during the year but, thanks to the financial generosity of the County Council, it was found possible to arrange a trip to Filey. Needless to say, this was a very great success, enjoyed by all, and especially so by those children who had never previously been privileged to go to the sea.

The Harvest Festival held at the Centre attracted a generous and varied display of produce and the service conducted by the Curate was much appreciated by the staff, parents and friends alike.

Later in the year, just before the holiday, the usual Christmas party was held and was attended by quite a large number of parents, friends and visitors. Each child received a toy contributed by the Yorkshire Evening Post Fund as well as sweets and fruit from other interested persons.

The annual visit of inspection from the Board of Control fell due on the 2nd December and the Inspector, after an exhaustive survey of the work done at the Centre, and the conditions existing therein, expressed herself well satisfied with the high standard of handwork as well as with the general tone of the Centre.

This Centre continues to fill a very definite need in regard to the social rehabilitation of these poor unfortunates by breaking down the barriers of loneliness and not infrequently instilling in them a degree of socialisation not previously thought possible. One of the main difficulties, however, militating against the full accomplishment of this objective lies in the fact that proper classroom accommodation is sadly lacking and although much can be effected by way of improvisation, the continued need to be observing such a policy can lead to frustration. The County Council, however, are alive to the needs of the Centre and it will probably be only a process of time before this problem will be remedied.

#### CONCLUSION.

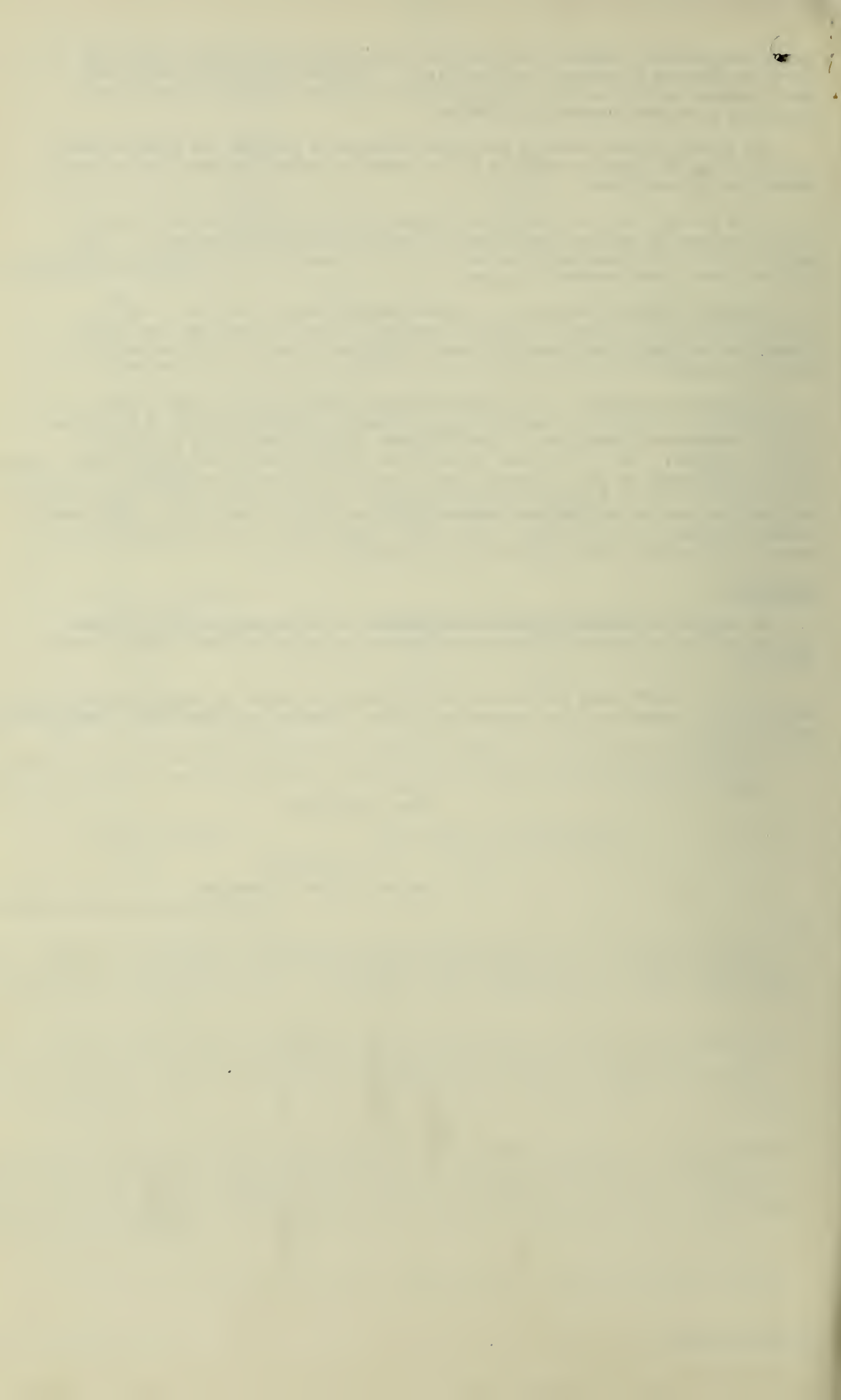
In conclusion, I would extend my appreciation to the members and to the chief officers of the Council for the assistance and co-operation they have given me during the year.

To my own staff, both professional and clerical, my thanks go out for the able way they have carried out their respective duties, labouring sometimes under considerable difficulty.

Yours faithfully,

J. M. PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health.





THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLEFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent  
E.J.WINFIELD, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., M.INST.P.C.

YEAR ENDED 31ST.DECEMBER,1953



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLEFORD.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for  
the year ended 31st. December, 1953.  
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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs Dodsworth, Mrs Parker, Mrs Ward and Gentlemen,

I beg to place before you my Tenth Annual Report in which is given a brief review of the work of my Department and the sanitary conditions obtaining in your district during the year 1953.

In the year under review there were no radical changes in legislation, but as "forthcoming events forecast their shadows", there is little doubt that the next annual report will reveal considerable changes in the law of Housing and Food Administration. Their exact form is awaited with interest.

HOUSING

In considering the circumstances of an area one is compelled to give prior attention to the housing of the people. The availability of sound, suitable accommodation, to be used solely and not shared, is a vital factor in the life of the community, and since the cessation of hostilities all local authorities have sought to secure adequacy within their districts.

It is therefore gratifying to note the rapid development of the Water Fryston estate, the laying out of which was commenced in 1952. During the year, 225 houses were built, largely on this estate, and divided between the Council and the Housing Association of the National Coal Board. These are but the forerunners of a continuing programme which, we hope, will do more than solve the estimated shortage; which will in fact permit a resumption of "slum clearance".

In past reports I have referred to the condition of existing properties and I would say again that it is just as essential that the people be housed in "satisfactory" conditions as in "suitable" ones. Many houses, either singly or in areas, have become old and decayed; they lack amenities and their condition is prejudicial to the health of the occupants. These houses should be eliminated.

Such elimination entails the re-housing of the tenants and consequently houses must be available for this purpose. I feel that the present rate of building, following upon the schemes of 1947 and 1948, justifies a clearance programme. During the year 1953 a commencement was made, demolition orders being made upon fourteen of our worst dwellings, six of which were demolished by the year end. I trust that from this start we shall be enabled to continue with ever increasing action, including the clearance and re-development of areas as well as the demolishing of individual houses.

As in former years reference must be made to the repair of existing houses. I have previously referred to the difficulties experienced and the position has in no way improved. Rather one would say the difficulties have increased. The rising costs when allied to fixed rentals have proved a great barrier to the securing of repair works, but a further factor is becoming more and more prominent, namely the shortage of skilled labour. Even when owners are prepared to undertake repair works, they have difficulty in placing their orders for the building firms in turn have even greater difficulty in meeting all commitments. The general trend towards new building has left only restricted staffs and consequently maintenance work has almost met a dead end. How this situation is to be overcome I cannot foresee, for on the occasions when the Department has proposed to undertake works in default, we have



found contractors unwilling to either tender for or undertake our requirements.

Existing housing demands careful thought and sympathetic aid if it is not to be overwhelmed by our new building programmes.

It will be seen from the accompanying tables that considerable repair work has been carried out in the district and this has only been secured by persistent effort on the part of the Department. The work was essentially that of making good defects and did not include any works of improvement. The provisions of the Housing Act, 1949 are being but slowly appreciated and it was only late in the year that an application was received for grant towards the cost of improvement. It is interesting to report, however, that the Council made use of the provisions. A house of more than average size, which had fallen into disrepair, was on my recommendation acquired and prepared for conversion to two flats. By the year end the work was well advanced but not actually completed, and so is reserved for another year's report.

There is every indication that works of improvement may be undertaken by owner-occupiers for their own convenience, but little indication that such works will extend to the investment properties, and I cannot but feel that if existing properties are to be provided with such amenities as hot water, baths and indoor sanitation then the work will have to be undertaken by the local authority, who will perforce have to acquire the properties. In the light of new building and essential repair works, one can see but little hope of this in the near future.

Finally I would append a tabulated report of the activities during the year.

#### HOUSING STATISTICS

No. of dwelling-houses in the district.....	12,018
No. of back-to-back houses included in above...	279

#### 1. Inspections of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts).	1629
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(b) No. of inspections for that purpose....	3360
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#### (2) No. of dwelling houses needing further action.

(a) No. considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	14
--	----

(b) No. (excluding above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.....	377
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#### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....	333
---	-----

#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Proceedings under sections 9, 10, 16,  
Housing Act, 1936.

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served.....	6
--	---

(2) No. rendered fit:-	
(a) By Local Authority.	6
(b) By owners.....	-

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	154
(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Local Authority.....	Nil
(b) By owners.....	137

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) No. of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for human habitation.....	14
(2) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	14
(3) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	6

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	Nil
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....	Nil

NEW HOUSES.

No. of new houses provided during the year.

By the Local Authority: Permanent Type..	122
Temporary Type..	Nil
By Private Enterprise.....	103

The following is a summary of the return submitted of the action taken under the Housing Acts, 1930/36 and the position at the 31st. December, 1953.

Part III of the Act. Clearance Areas.

No. of unfit dwelling houses demolished.....	68
No. of persons displaced.....	243

Part II of the Act. Individual Unfit Houses.

No. of dwelling houses demolished.	
By Formal Action.....	141
By Informal Action.....	32
No. of dwelling houses closed.....	33
Parts of buildings closed.....	13
No. of persons displaced from above.....	859
No. of houses made fit.	
By Formal Action.....	290
By Informal Action.....	2596



# SUMMARY OF NOTICES

Section	Informal Notices	Complied with without Stat'y Notice	Statutory Notices	Stat.notices complied with.	Out- stand'g
Housing Act, 1936					
Section 9	1	1	-	-	-
Public Health Act, 1936.					
Sections 92/3	337	115	158	128	94
Section 75	356	259	98	84	13
Section 47	12	1	11	11	-
Section 45	144	95	22	19	30
Section 39	125	74	36	21	30
Others	17	7	10	9	1

## Key.

Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 is used to require the thorough reconditioning of houses.

Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936 deals with such matters as blocked or defective drains, sink waste pipes, etc.

Section 45 is used for water closets which are defective but which can be repaired without reconstruction.

Section 47 deals with the conversion of privies, waste water closets, etc., to proper washdown water closets.

Section 75 enforces the provision of proper dustbins.

Sections 92/3 deal with premises in such a state as to be a nuisance or prejudicial to health, and are used for general repairs to houses.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Whilst the housing of the people may be our first consideration, the supervision of food supplies is undoubtedly a close second.

In reviewing the year's workings one cannot but think in the terms of preparation, storage, handling and sale, all of which have been given close attention by the Department. It is interesting to consider the various types of food premises in the district. The retail food shops and similar premises are as follows:-

Butchers.....	58
Bakers & Confectioners.....	42
Wet Fishmongers.....	12
Fried Fish shops.....	32
Greengrocers.....	36
Grocers.....	149
Cafes and Restaurants, &c.....	15

In addition the following premises have been registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:-

For the manufacture of Ice-Cream.....	3
For the sale of Ice-Cream.....	97
For the manufacture of Sausages, Potted Pressed, Pickled and Preserved Foods, including the preparation of Shell Fish...	18
As Dairies.....	6



The following premises are actively engaged in food manufacture without being actually registered:-

Sweet confectionery.....	2
Maltsters.....	3
Flour Millers.....	1
Tripe Dressers.....	2
Fat Refiners.....	1

In supervising these food premises the following visits have been recorded:-

Ice-Cream Premises.....	335
Food preparing premises.....	110
Dairies.....	82
Food shops.....	643
Cafes, Restaurants, &c.....	75
Slaughterhouse.....	253
Market shops and stalls.....	145
Street vendors.....	64

It is interesting to relate these premises to the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, and the Food Handling Byelaws. In more recent reports reference has been made to the provision of wash-basins and hot water; today the majority of premises possess these essential features. It is however remarkable to note that whilst the standard of structure has greatly improved and premises themselves maintained in a much more satisfactory condition, many people are still unconvinced of the need for a constant supply of hot water and the repeated washing of the hands of the server. We are often met with the assertion that a pint kettle on a gas ring, an enamel bowl with a piece of soap and a corner of towelling, are amply sufficient for the needs of the small trader. In those establishments where adequate facilities are available, the personnel seldom use them with that regularity which the health of the people demands. One is amazed that such low standards are expected to be acceptable in the year 1953.

Another important feature is the protection of food against contamination. By consistent action the Department has secured screening for vulnerable foods in practically all shops and I cannot but compliment the Markets Committee for the provision of the refrigerated show cases for the fish stalls, and the positive efforts made to secure and maintain cleanly conditions within the Market.

As with washing facilities there are many who remain unconvinced of this need for protection, a particular example being flour confectionery. It has been standard practice for generations to display large and varied stocks to attract the consumer, and it is difficult to persuade the trade that these displays should not remain completely exposed. There is all too frequently an aversion to placing goods behind glass because, it is alleged, it interferes with trade. I have frequently been told by traders in fish and rabbits that the customers "like to handle what they are buying"!

One is forced to the conclusion that despite the widespread propaganda, it is not generally accepted that food should have complete protection against the atmosphere, the fly, tobacco ash and the human hand and breath. In the course of our duties we are often accused of being extreme, but from our readings and our talks with travellers from abroad, we realise that we are still a long way behind our American cousins in food protection standards.

During the year especial attention was given to the retailing of food by street traders. In the post war years the number of traders has increased enormously, and in addition to our old friend, the greengrocer, and the ice-cream vendor, there has sprung up the mobile shop - a vehicle trading literally to its name. With the adoption of the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, all food hawkers became liable for registration and as a first step towards securing this, careful investigation was made into the methods and standards of the street trader. The vehicles in use were found to vary from well equipped, totally enclosed vans, to open carts and barrows. Having regard to the requirements of the Food Handling Byelaws, certain recommendations were made to the Public Health Committee, who in November, 1953 laid down the following conditions for vehicles seeking registration:-

1. Vehicles used for the sale of raw and unprepared vegetables and fruit should have adequate overhead rear and off-side protection against the weather and other forms of contamination. Potatoes and other dirty root vegetables to be segregated from other foods and fruit also to be segregated from other vegetables. A proper container to be carried for the reception and storage of rubbish and litter.
2. Vehicles used for the sale of meat, meat products, fish, rabbits and prepared salad ingredients, groceries and confectionery to conform to the following:-
  - (a) Adequate protection of the food from the weather and proper screening of foods on display from all forms of contamination.
  - (b) Adequate washing facilities including wash-basin or sink with supplies of both hot and cold water together with soap and towels.
  - (c) Adequate lighting arrangements and refuse storage.

Several traders were soon available for registration, but in the majority of cases the vehicles called for considerable improvements and registrations were deferred into 1954. This work continues.

Having considered food supervision in a general sense, it is essential that I report in detail on some of the various sections.

1. Meat At the time of writing this report it is known that the year 1953 would be the last complete year of Government control of livestock and slaughtering. Its fifteen years of existence has provided the opportunity to study centralized killing in comparatively small concentrations. It has revealed the immense advantages of providing the means of complete inspection, but it has also shown the disadvantages of overcrowded premises and unsuitable sites. It has developed the hope that we shall, ere long, have our own abattoir of up to date design, built on a site suitable to the needs of the town and trade.

During the year 1953 all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption were dealt with at the one slaughterhouse, leased by the Ministry of Food. Slaughtering was carried out by agents on their behalf, twelve persons being licensed to stun and slaughter animals, under the Slaughter of Animals Act, not all of whom however were engaged regularly on the work.



The animals slaughtered during the year followed very closely the pattern of the previous year and the following tables give a comprehensive picture of meat inspection work. It will be seen that the carcasses of all animals slaughtered were inspected, the work being carried out by members of the staff operating a rota system.

#### Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	1425	311	317	7296	2236
Number inspected	1425	311	317	7296	2236
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	1	-	1	5	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	295	51	12	255	495
Percentage of number inspected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	20.7	16.7	4.1	3.6	22.4
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	5	6	-	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	129	121	-	-	60
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	9.4	40.6	-	-	2.7

#### Carcasses, Part-carcasses and Organs Condemned

	<u>Beasts</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Carcasses	12	1	5	9	27
Forequarters	21	-	-	14	35
Hindquarters	20	-	13	5	38
Heads and Tongues	143	-	-	57	200
Lungs	225	-	-	-	225
Plucks	-	1	235	121	357
Hearts	15	-	-	-	15
Livers	386	-	-	-	386
Udders	18	-	-	2	20
Intestines	70	12	17	434	533



Diseases.

	<u>Beasts</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis	261	-	-	63	323
Actinomycosis	2	-	-	-	2
Abscesses	101	-	3	-	104
Fatty Degeneration	3	-	-	5	8
Angiona	24	-	-	-	24
Parasitic	70	-	152	62	284
Cirrhosis	206	-	-	1	207
Bruising	23	-	9	12	44
Mastitis	15	-	-	2	17
Pleurisy	12	-	-	3	15
Emaciation	-	-	1	-	1
Medicine Taint	1	-	-	-	1
Melanosia	1	-	-	-	1
Inflammation	33	12	18	434	497
Peritonitis	3	-	-	-	3
Septicaemia	-	-	1	-	1
Moribund	-	-	2	2	4
Pericarditis	3	-	-	-	3
Pyaemia	-	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia	2	-	-	15	17
Swine Erisypelas	-	-	-	1	1
Arthritis	-	-	1	-	1
Uraemia	-	-	-	1	1
Osteomyelitis	-	-	-	1	1
Johnes Disease	1	-	-	-	1
Immaturity	-	1	-	-	1

In my previous report I drew attention to the incidence of disease found in the animals slaughtered and I once again offer some comparisons.

It will be seen from the foregoing tables that in 1954 there was a slight falling off in the number of cattle killed, but a marked increase in the number of pigs and sheep. Cows fell from 360 to 311, other cattle from 1472 to 1425, and calves from 417 to 317. Sheep rose from 6835 to 7296, whilst pigs had an enormous rise from 940 to 2236.

Of the cows slaughtered 6 were affected by Generalized Tuberculosis and condemned in entirety, whilst 121 were found to be affected in part only. These combined figures show that 40.6% of cows slaughtered were affected in some measure by Tuberculosis, the figure for 1952 being 40.55%.

As against this cattle other than cows showed a decided improvement; 5 full carcasses were condemned on the grounds of Generalized Tuberculosis, whilst 129 were found to be affected in part only. The combined figures give 9.4% of the cattle slaughtered as against 14.08% in 1952. In the case of other animals the figures were quite light; only 3.6% of the sheep slaughtered were in any way affected with disease, all of course non-tubercular, whilst 4.1% of calves were affected with disease, again non-tubercular.

Of the pigs slaughtered 2.7% were affected with Tuberculosis and 22.4% with other diseases.

All meat found to be unsound was disposed of by the Ministry of Food to their Agents, but all was stunned prior to leaving the slaughterhouse premises.

2. Milk Although the town's milk supply appears to have been established on an extremely sound basis, it continues to receive close attention from the Department. Samples are taken weekly for both bacteriological and biological examination, whilst sampling for chemical analysis is carried out frequently, but at irregular times.

The town is served by 136 distributors, only one of whom retails raw milk and that of "Accredited" standard. All milk is delivered in sealed bottles, none from open cans. As in former years the C.W.S. Retail Society was our largest single supplier. The Society operates its own plant at Ashton Road, and draws its supplies of raw milk from farms in the adjacent areas. Every care is taken to maintain the quality of the supply and the plant is well served by its own laboratory staff. The smaller retailers continue to draw their supplies from large scale wholesalers, principally the Manorcroft Dairies, and their Associate Company, Express Dairies, Sheffield, both of whom supply Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) milk. The sale of "Sterilized" milk by shop keepers would appear to be gaining ground, 103 such persons being registered.

From examination and as a result of sampling one obtains the belief that our milk supply is well assured, but one cannot but note one disquieting feature - the adventures of the milk bottle between use and re-use. All too frequently are milk bottles seen dumped in bad surroundings, used for other purposes, and very, very frequently returned in dirty condition. The retailers themselves are not always free from criticism. It is no uncommon sight to see crates of empty bottles stacked in the open, exposed to the elements, insects, and the attention of dogs, awaiting collection by the retailer on his return journey. Such unceremonious treatment of bottles is to be deplored; true, the bottles will be dealt with in an efficient washing plant when returned to the Dairy, but even the most efficient and best supervised plant will be sorely tried to deal with many of them. Some may in fact be beyond cleansing. From time to time consumers have drawn our attention to bottles which have come through the washing process with a dirt line still existing, and one is never surprised when this occurs. Here, undoubtedly, is an avenue of food hygiene needing further examination.

In the field of sampling bacteriological examination gives most reassuring results, but on the biological side a query is very definitely raised. Of the 411 samples taken during the year, 17 (4.13%) gave positive results. The farms from which these supplies were derived were visited by Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and as a result 15 milk beasts were eradicated.

When these figures are placed against those from the slaughter-house, one is compelled to the thought that there is much need for investigation into the health of live animals. Our veterinary friends are frequently heard to claim that meat inspection should be in their hands and not in the hands of sanitary inspectors, but methinks there is ample scope for their talents in the work upon which they are primarily employed, namely the health of the dairy animal, from which, incidentally, the public draws its milk supplies.

Sixty-two samples of milk were submitted for chemical analysis - 57 of an informal nature, 5 formal. Of these 3 informal and one formal (all from the same herd) were found to be deficient in fat, but an "appeal to the cow" sample revealed the deficiency to be a natural one. This question was naturally taken up with the producer, but as the samples were only taken during the last month of the year, little progress had been made by the year end, and the matter passes forward to 1954.



The following tables summarise this section of our work:-

Registration of Producers, Distributors and Dairies

Pasteurised Milk

No. of producers of pasteurised milk.....	1
No. of inspections of pasteurising plant.....	54

Distribution

No. of distributors on register.....	136
No. selling Raw milk.....	Nil
No. selling Pasteurised milk.....	31
No. selling Accredited milk.....	1
No. selling T.T.Pasteurised milk.....	30
No. selling Sterilized milk.....	103

Sampling of Milk for Bacteriological Examination

Raw Milk

No. of samples submitted to Methylene Blue Test.	912
No. of samples which satisfied M.B. Test for.....	
Accredited Milk.....	590
No. which did not satisfy the above Test.....	322

Pasteurised Milk

No. of samples submitted to prescribed tests....	104
No. satisfying Methylene Blue Test.....	101
No. satisfying Phosphatase Test.....	104

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk

No. of samples submitted to prescribed tests....	98
No. satisfying Methylene Blue Test.....	95
No. satisfying Phosphatase Test.....	98

Sterilized Milk

No. of samples submitted to prescribed tests....	26
No. satisfying Methylene Blue Test.....	26
No. satisfying Turbidity Test.....	26

Milk - Biological Examination for Tuberculosis

No. of samples submitted for above test.....	411
No. giving negative result.....	381
No. giving positive result.....	17
No. of samples invalid due to early death of guinea pig.....	13

The results of the investigation of the positive samples of milk are shown in tabulated form.



<u>Date of Sample</u>	<u>Type of Supply</u>	<u>Result of Investigation</u>
6/1/53	Raw Milk to Pasteurising Plant.	No positive cow found. Milk certified clear.
24/2/53	-do-	One cow slaughtered under T.B.Order.
10/3/53	-do-	-do-
24/3/53	-do-	-do-
28/4/53	-do-	-do-
5/5/53	-do-	No positive cow found. Milk certified clear.
19/5/53	-do-	One cow slaughtered under T.B.Order.
9/6/53	-do-	No positive cow found. Milk certified clear.
14/7/53	-do-	One cow slaughtered under T.B.Order.
5/8/53	-do-	-do-
11/8/53	-do-	No positive cow found. Milk certified clear.
25/8/53	-do-	One cow slaughtered under T.B.Order.
6/10/53	-do-	No positive cow found. Milk certified clear.
13/10/53	-do-	Two cows slaughtered under T.B.Order.
3/11/53	-do-	One cow slaughtered under T.B.Order.
1/12/53	-do-	Two cows slaughtered under T.B. Order.
8/12/53	-do-	Two cows slaughtered under T.B.Order.

Total number of Tubercular cows eradicated - 15

Sampling of Milk for Chemical Analysis.

<u>Samples taken</u>	Informal	-	57
	Formal	-	5
<u>No. of Samples</u>			
<u>Adulterated.</u>	Informal	-	3
	Formal	-	1

### Details of Adulterated Samples

No.984C	Informal	2.77% Fat 8.23% Solids Not Fat	Followed up by check samples which proved genuine.
No.987C	Informal	2.82% Fat	-do-
No.990C	Informal	2.94% Fat	Followed up by Formal sample No.883
No.883	Formal	2.68% Fat 8.40% Solids Not Fat	Followed up by "Appeal to Cow" samples No.888 and 889.
No.888	"Appeal to Cow"	2.82% Fat 8.46% Solids not Fat	
No.889	-do-	2.54% Fat 8.40% Solids Not Fat	

3. Ice Cream Twenty-five years ago my predecessor, Mr.T.E. Birtwistle, wrote in his Annual Report, "Ice cream, formerly looked upon as a luxury, has now come to be regarded as a necessity at certain times of the year". He added that it was regrettable that powers were not in force for the compulsory registration of all premises where ice-cream was made.

Today, the demand for this commodity is greater than ever, but its production and sale are well covered by legal powers of control. Post-war legislation has had the effect of converting the small man into a retailer, leaving the manufacture of the product to large scale firms, whose financial resources permit the construction of suitable premises and the installing of adequate plant.

In the town today there are 101 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and 3 premises registered for manufacture. The sale of pre-packed ice-cream stored in refrigerated containers, is now our major source of supply, although loose ice-cream can still be obtained, principally from itinerant vendors.

The improvements secured to both premises and vehicles are I feel reflected in the bacteriological standard of the product, for our sampling during the year showed excellent results. Our examination also included the chemical composition and one sample was found not to comply with the legal standards, but as the discrepancy was slight, action was limited to the issuing of a warning letter. The following tables again summarise the work:

No. of premises registered for sale during	
the year.....	20
No. of premises registered for manufacture	
during the year.....	Nil

#### Position at end of 1953.

No. of premises registered for sale.....	101
No. of premises registered for manufacture....	3

#### Sampling for Bacteriological Examination

	1953	1952
No. of samples taken.....	297	277
No. of samples classified Grade I	252	199
No. of samples classified Grade 2	28	50
No. of samples classified Grade 3	12	22
No. of samples classified Grade 4	5	6

## Sampling for Chemical Analysis

### No. of samples taken

#### Formal

1

#### Informal

6

### No. of samples adulterated

#### Formal

1

#### Informal

Nil

### Details of Adulterated Samples

No.977	Ice-Cream.	10.8% Fat	) Warning letter
		19.6% Solids not Fat	) sent to Producer.
		3.6% Sugar	)

4. Fish The town is extremely well supplied with fish, including wet, cured and fried. The bulk of the supplies of wet fish are derived from three wholesale establishments situate in the town. Here the fish is received direct from the port, and prepared for the retail trade, thus eliminating the more difficult trade waste at the shops. The wet fish retailers are distributed throughout the town, but several are centred in the Market Hall. All shops are now equipped with refrigerated display units, the private traders having provided their own, whilst the Market Committee installed one in each of its fish shops, charging the occupiers a weekly rental for the use thereof. This general provision is undoubtedly a great step forward and the protection afforded has undoubtedly improved the keeping qualities of the fish. The town continues to be served by hawkers retailing from street vehicles, and whilst the majority are developing their vehicles on sound lines, some are still in need of attention.

Fish curing by both smoking and boiling is carried on in the district by one firm, who appear to have a very ready market for not only cured fish but prepared shell fish, mussels and crab meat being prepared on a fairly large scale under excellent conditions.

Fish and chips have long been a popular item in the diet of the town and 32 fish fryers trade in the district. The shop premises are generally of good standard and provided with up to date ranges, but some of the preparation rooms leave much to be desired. This aspect of the trade is earmarked by the Department for early action.

5. Other Foods - General General supervision is exercised over all shop premises to ensure soundness in general food supplies. It is inevitable that unsoundness occurs in canned and packed foods, and the traders generally are extremely ready to seek our assistance in dealing with such goods. In addition, samples are taken from time to time under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The following was among food surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

184 tins Meat	40 stones Wet Fish
603 lbs Ham and Bacon	555 lbs Pork
78 lbs Frozen Eggs	90 tins Beans
708 lbs Beef	61 lbs Cake
215 tins Tomatoes	49 lbs Veal
656 tins Fruit	137 lbs Mutton
158 lbs Sausages	96 Eggs
59 tins Peas	16 lbs Jam
132 tins Milk	41 lbs Biscuits
334 tins Fish	17 Jars Pickles
79 lbs Cheese	71 cwts Potatoes
63 lbs Dried Milk	

Total weight condemned - 21 tons 16 cwts



The foregoing was either taken from the shop or brought by traders to the officers. After surrender it was disposed of at the destructor.

Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act were as follows:-

	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Adulterated</u>	
			<u>Formal</u>	<u>Informal</u>
Beef Sausages	1	-	-	-
Pork Sausages	1	-	-	-
Potted Beef Paste	1	-	-	-
Mixed Fruit	1	-	-	-
Fish Cakes	2	-	-	-
Ground Almond Substitute	1	-	1	-
Ground Rice	1	-	-	-
Brown Sugar	1	-	-	-
Beef Suet	1	-	-	-
Coconut	1	-	-	-
Potatoes	-	1	-	1
Totals	11	1	1	1

#### Details of Adulterated Samples

Sample No. 979	Formal	Ground Almond Substitute	10.6% Oil 26.1% Protein	Supplier prosecuted but found not guilty
-	Informal	Potatoes	Contaminated by Gammexane or similar treatment of soil.	Consignment condemned.

#### WATER SUPPLY

The town continues to draw its water supplies from the Wakefield and Pontefract Corporations, with some slight assistance from the Leeds Corporation. The Wakefield supply is largely fed direct to properties via the service mains, but the Pontefract supply is delivered into storage reservoirs for redistribution via service mains. The Leeds supply is only used intermittently and when required feeds directly into the mains serving the Lock Lane area.

The Wakefield supply continues to be of a soft quality, whilst the Pontefract supply retains its hardness. The difficulty experienced during the previous year from bacterial content continued during 1953, and as a result the systematic chlorination of the reservoirs was continued.

As in former years sampling of the supply was carried out weekly, samples being taken from both reservoirs and domestic taps. The results of this work are as follows:-

No. of samples taken from reservoirs	-	97
No. showing coliform organisms	-	3
No. of samples taken from consumers		
taps	-	284
No. showing coliform organisms	-	9

A tabulated list of unsatisfactory samples is given below.

Date of Sample.	No. of Sample.	Address	No. of coliform organisms
1/9/53	256	Town Hall	5
1/9/53	257	Treasurer's Department	1
1/9/53	258	Old Reservoir	2
1/9/53	259	New Reservoir	2
1/9/53	260	Carr Lane	5
1/9/53	261	Cutsyke Pumping Station	4
1/9/53	264	Cinder Lane	5
2/9/53	269	Carr Lane	2
22/9/53	297	Carr Lane	2
29/9/53	308	Cutsyke Pumping Station	2
17/11/53	367	Airedale Old Reservoir	2
29/11/53	421	Cinder Lane	6

Water Fryston Village This hamlet continues to be served by public supply fed to an iron storage tank to reduce pressure.

Carr Wood The natural spring of course still exists at Carr Wood, but the communal standpipe is believed to be generally used by the persons resident in the area.

Well Supply During the year the Department was approached by a pig feeder in the Smawthorne Allotments for assistance in determining the quality of the water available in a shallow well. A sample was taken which revealed the presence of 160 non-faecal and 10 faecal coliforms. The person was advised not to use the water for any feeding purposes.

SWIMMING BATHS. The town continues to be served only by the Public Baths, no private pools existing. The swimming season is limited to the period of April to October and during those months regular sampling of the pool water is carried out by the Department. This sampling comprises weekly examination of the water for bacterial content, samples being drawn from both the inlet and outlet ends, supported by monthly samples for chemical analysis. During the whole of the swimming season only one sample revealed the presence of coliform bacilli, whilst the chemical analysis proved always satisfactory, although showing a gradual build up of content. As a precautionary measure the water was changed during the August month. The results of this sampling are as follows:-

No. of samples submitted for bacteriological examination..... 40  
 No. of samples showing coliform bacilli..... 1

Date	Sample No.	B.Coli	
		Non-faecal	Faecal
21/7/53	200	1	Nil



## Chemical Analysis

Date of Sample.	Total Solids	Parts per Million			
		Chlorides	Free Ammonia	Albuminoid Ammonia	Oxygen Absorbed
13/6/53	680	215	0.10	0.50	4.4
7/7/53	720	288	0.04	0.60	4.5
6/8/53	700	285	0.15	0.50	3.5 Water changed.
5/9/53	620	210	0.11	0.44	5.1

The Baths Superintendent and his staff are to be complimented on the excellent standard of both the pool and its amenities.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

It is extremely difficult in writing this section of the report not to merely repeat what has been said so frequently in the past.

This staff of the Department devoted considerable time during the year to smoke observations and as a result contact was made with the users of offending chimneys, some improvements were secured and more promised.

Some examples of this work are as follows. Smoke emissions from two vertical boilers of medium capacity. In the one instance the owners were interviewed, the circumstances considered and action agreed upon. The plant subsequently received thorough overhaul and the chimney raised in height. Emissions are now most infrequent but on rare occasions they are discharged at such a height as to be well clear of the adjoining dwellings.

In the second instance correspondence with the owners produced a complete overhaul of the plant and chimney, which in turn gave greater efficiency and removed the source of complaint.

At the clothing factory referred to in my last report work was commenced on an entirely new boiler plant of adequate capacity. By the year end construction was well advanced but the plant was not ready for use.

The chemical works to which so much time was devoted in the previous year continued to give improved results, although with temporary falls from grace, whilst the re-organisation of the plant used in the manufacture of road materials effectively dealt with the dust problem arising therefrom.

The emission of acid fumes from our other chemical works still gives rise to numerous complaints, but here it would seem we are without remedy.

The point then arises, has the work produced any real reduction in the degree of pollution? The figures secured from our various gauges indicate a marked improvement in the amount of soot deposited, but a deterioration in the sulphur emissions. We are thus encouraged on the one hand and somewhat disheartened on the other, for the rising acidity of the atmosphere is most disturbing.

The following tables give the monthly figures for the four gauges, all of which have been retained in the same position as 1952.



Sootfall - Tons per square mile.

Month	Cinder Lane	Ings Lane	Redhill	Carlton Street
January		20.48	7.22	10.78
February		11.56	8.27	12.60
March		13.90	8.43	9.80
April	9.53	17.07	18.92	17.22
May	18.72	21.63	11.65	19.94
June	12.65	7.96	7.40	13.17
July	25.91	17.20	13.54	18.39
August	15.00	10.80	9.09	9.56
September	12.89	9.97	7.33	10.30
October	14.30	13.70	13.90	23.31
November	17.08	13.06	9.53	13.04
December	15.91	11.65	10.55	20.65
Totals	141.99	168.98	125.83	178.76

Sulphur Trioxide Estimation - Milligrammes per day.

Month	Cinder Lane	Ings Lane	Redhill	Carlton Street
January	4.16	2.24	1.95	1.54
February	4.03	2.41	2.62	2.56
March	2.87	1.87	2.48	2.59
April	2.10	1.37	1.46	1.82
May	1.48	0.96	1.05	1.21
June	1.60	0.90	0.87	1.17
July	1.52	1.46	1.47	1.31
August	1.26	1.36	1.34	1.11
September	2.90	2.34	2.10	2.40
October	3.23	3.00	3.89	3.61
November	2.49	3.90	2.61	3.96
December	3.89	3.53	3.77	4.29
Averages	2.61	2.11	2.13	2.30

It is always interesting to look back in an endeavour to prove progress, and I herewith give tabulated figures for the past ten years.

Sootfall - Shown in tons per square mile per annum

Year	Cinder Lane	Ings Lane	Redhill	Carlton Street
1953	141.99	168.98	125.83	178.76
1952	194.55	258.20	139.24	204.70
1951	216.27	285.72	155.42	243.16
1950	165.76	185.61	150.37	242.70
1949	190.51	172.97	147.52	321.44
1948	237.13	257.32	212.90	352.26
1947	176.32	269.19	217.74	307.11
1946	204.72	249.72	161.52	245.04
1945	not established		206.96	225.00
1944	not established		188.55	305.28

Sulphur Trioxide Estimation - Average for year - milligrammes per day

Year	Cinder Lane	Ings Lane	Redhill	Carlton Street
1953	2.61	2.11	2.13	2.30
1952	2.09	1.47	1.79	1.91
1951	2.01	1.67	1.73	1.91
1950	1.60	.95	1.63	1.98
1949	not established		3.23	3.18
1948	"	"	3.79	3.37
1947	"	"	2.79	2.91
1946	"	"	2.51	2.19
1945	"	"	3.05	2.96
1944	"	"	2.79	3.46

Whilst the tables reveal year to year fluctuations, the period as a whole does indicate a marked reduction in the degree of pollution. This improvement may be viewed with both gratification and some pride, but not with complacency for much still remains to be done.

In the industrial field one can discern a steady trend towards better conditions, but in certain instances the problem is immense. A typical example is the Coke Oven plant at Glass Houghton where the fumes from the ovens combine with dense smoke from the boiler, to cast a haze over that part of the district and to produce an aroma which travels even further. Several meetings have been held with the management, and certain works have already been undertaken, producing some improvement. These works, however, merely touch on the fringe of what is a vast problem calling for equally vast capital expenditure. Whilst it is appreciated that the problem is being given serious study, it is also appreciated that residents continue to bear the present unsatisfactory conditions. This situation has been reported year after year, and one cannot but feel that a decision is now long overdue. The plant calls for drastic overhaul and capital should be made available for this purpose.

In my last report I noted that the National Coal Board had commenced a programme of reorganization of their steam raising plant, but so far the programme does not appear to have included any of the collieries within our boundaries. It has been noticed during the year that the emissions from some of these collieries are of a serious nature and one would urge their early inclusion in the area plan.

Attention has also been given to the pottery industry. Here one of the works is completely gas fired and smoke is of course unknown. A second pottery operates partly on electrically heated ovens and partly on coal-fired kilns. These latter give off serious smoke emissions, which in turn produce innumerable complaints. Again one would wish the firm to convert the whole of their plant to either gas or electricity.

No report on industrial plant would be complete without reference to boiler operatives. In the course of our investigations we find some steam raising plants to be hand fired and some with mechanical appliances, but all too frequently we find smoke emissions to be due to either bad stoking on the one hand or indifferent use of the mechanical plant on the other. In the interests of both efficiency and economy it is essential that persons engaged on this work should be completely competent and I would again urge the case for technical classes and certificates of competency. The classes can be held and the certificate exists, but the incentive is lacking.



If, however, the holding of a certificate carried a plus rate of pay the incentive would be there. From such a scheme the employee would undoubtedly reap a return by the more efficient use of fuel, whilst the public would secure the benefit of reduced smoke.

Of domestic smoke we can say much but report little. The number of domestic chimneys is steadily increasing and, one fears, are creating an increased volume of smoke. Whilst many householders have turned to gas and electricity for cooking purposes, the open fire still remains the space heater. Many firegrates have been converted to the modern appliance, the "continuous burner", or the "all night grate", and of course this form of apparatus is being installed in all new houses, but it is tragic to realise the primary intention of the grates, namely the burning of smokeless fuels, has been completely ignored and that the vast majority are coal fired.

In recent years "smokeless zones" have been established in some of our towns, but the establishing is a difficult matter. I cannot but feel that new housing schemes offer all the potentials for such zones if only the opportunity was grasped. The new houses, with their up to date grates, cookers and water heaters are ideally suited for the use of smokeless fuels, if only the tenants were willing, or compelled, to use them. I realise that in this area "concessional coal" is an added problem, but not, I believe, an impossible one.

In other coalfields mineworkers and management have worked out schemes whereby coke can be drawn in place of coal, and I believe this to be possible in our own district. The suggestion may sound revolutionary, but if we are genuine in our desire for a cleaner atmosphere, then change is inevitable and every possibility worthy of investigation.

The question may well be put "does the public desire a cleaner atmosphere", and I am convinced that the answer is "yes". Doubts may have existed in years gone by, but not now. In the last twelve months there has been an ever growing demand for action, a demand undoubtedly encouraged by our National Press, but it is pathetic to realise that it was really propelled into being by the tragedy of the London "smog".

To those who have laboured so long with so little result, this change of heart is indeed welcome.

#### RIVERS AND WATER COURSES

During the year there was no change in the situation. Some localized flooding was experienced in the time of heavy rain, due to the overflowing of streams and slight surcharging of the tp water drains. Fortunately the town escaped any general flooding from the river.

#### DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

The procedure laid down in former years was continued throughout 1953. Disinfection of premises after cases of notifiable disease and after deaths or removals of pulmonary cases was carried out by the Department; houses being treated by spraying and fumigation, whilst the bedding, etc., was subjected to steam treatment.

The disinfectant plant at Cinder Lane continues to give good economic service, not only to our own townspeople, but also to neighbouring authorities.

Premises affected with vermin are still sprayed with solution containing D.D.T. and Pyrethrum with satisfactory results.



The policy of dealing with all Council houses upon change of tenancy and also on first occupation has been continued. The in-going tenant's furniture is concentrated to one room wherein it is both sprayed and fumigated, whilst the remaining rooms are sprayed with solution leaving behind a residual effect.

During the year infestations of cockroaches, beetles, and similar insects were reported to the Department, and were subsequently dealt with by Gammexane powder, again with excellent results.

As in former years, one industrial concern had its premises treated with Hydrocyanic Acid Gas, the work being done by experienced contractors. After treatment, however, the Department took confirmatory samples of the foodstuffs manufactured.

The following shows the work carried out during the year:-

Disinfection after Infectious Disease	-	189
Disinfestation of verminous houses:		
Privately owned.....		18
L.A. owned.....		2
Council houses treated upon the creation of new tenancy...		297

#### DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SANITARY ALTERATIONS

With the development of the new housing schemes there has naturally been considerable activity in the construction of new drains and new sewers. At the Water Fryston Estate the existing sewer has of course been extended and developed to meet the building programme of the Council itself and of the National Coal Board. The houses erected have of course been connected to these sewers and the Department undertook the inspection and supervision of the drains to the National Coal Board scheme. This service however was not extended to our own scheme, where whole-time Clerks of Works were employed.

The drainage to houses built by private enterprise was of course supervised by the Department.

In the field of existing sewers and drainage the position remains much the same as in 1952. Very many complaints were received of blockage and defect, and one cannot but believe that the mining operations noted in the previous year are the probable cause of this damage. The section of bad sewer reported upon in 1952 has not been in any way remedied, and throughout the year the mechanical appliances of the Department have given twice weekly service to this section and was it not for this, serious flooding would occur. I would once again urge the early commencement of the work of reconstructing the sewers of this area.

The regular emptying of cesspools is of course routine, but during the year the Council took all necessary steps to remove from themselves the responsibility of cleansing any cesspool constructed in the future. Undoubtedly this service is a serious expense on the rate and an embarrassment at times to the Department for many of the cesspools rapidly fill in periods of heavy rain, and extremely frequent attention has to be paid. The very presence of so many cesspools is an undesirable feature, and as certain areas could be quickly dealt with if sewers were available, I would urge early consideration of the problem. To convert these properties from cesspool storage to direct sewerage would be both a hygienic improvement and eventually a financially sound one.

During the year a number of privy middens and slop closets were converted to water closets and whilst the numbers of this form of convenience are very low in the district, we are gradually

securing their abolition.

Works carried out during the year 1953 were as follows:-

Privies abolished.....	4
Privies converted to water closets.....	6
Slop closets converted to water closets....	12
Water closets abolished.....	1
Additional water closets provided to existing buildings.....	5
Water closets provided to new buildings...	241
Drains and water closets reconstructed or repaired.....	209
Drains, water closets, etc., opened up, cleansed, etc.....	564
Ashpits (wet) abolished.....	4
Ashbins abolished.....	1
Ashbins provided to new buildings.....	225

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspection of factories was carried on as in former years, liaison being maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories. Our activities were directed to cleanliness in non-mechanical factories and to sanitary accommodation and escape in case of fire in all factories. The following is a copy of the Annual Return submitted to the Ministry of Labour regarding work under this heading:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>	<u>Notices Served</u>
Factories without mechanical power.	23	21	Nil
Factories with mechanical power.	125	202	1
Other premises.	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Nil</u>
Totals	<u>151</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>1</u>

Cases in which defects were found:-

<u>Defects</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Ref. to H.M.I.</u>	<u>Ref. by H.M.I.</u>	<u>Prosec- utions.</u>
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	2	-	1	1	-
(b) Unsuitable	1	1	-	1	-
Other Offences.	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	1	1	2	-

Number of outworkers on register - 2

#### THEATRES AND CINEMAS

The town continues to be served by one theatre and six cinemas, all of which were inspected from time to time and found to be well maintained.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

Two common lodging houses are still existent in the district, both catering for men only. They are visited regularly and at all times were found to be well maintained, extremely clean and very well managed.



## TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

During the year it has been necessary to exert even greater vigilance than in previous years over this form of dwelling. Despite the improvement in the housing conditions we still continue to find individuals wishing to site a so called moveable dwelling on a piece of land and to use it as a permanent home. This practice would eventually lead to widespread colonies of sub-standard housing, and is not in any way compatible with modern housing standards. All possible steps are taken to prevent the insidious creep in of these vans.

Another difficult problem has been the constant attempts by individuals of the travelling hawker type to establish themselves within the district. There are certain sites within the area which these persons appear to regard with great affection, and without the consent of the owner are liable to set up their vans over-night. During the year a constant battle has been waged, but with the support of the owners and the local police we have been able to prevent prolonged visitations.

It is apparent however that we cannot in any way relax our supervision of these sites, or in fact of these persons generally.

As in former years travelling showmen used sites in the town as winter quarters in addition to visiting for seasonal fairs. The sites and vans are always well maintained.

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Our system remained unchanged throughout the year. Two rat-catchers are still employed full-time in the Department and we are thus able to carry out regular inspections and treatments. In all cases the methods and materials prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were employed and a general assessment of the position would appear to show a continuing decrease in the rat population.

Infestations are naturally scattered throughout the whole of the district, but as in former years the main sites proved to be the sewage works, marine stores and areas adjoining the river. These infestations are undoubtedly affected by the seasons and whilst the river banks and agricultural lands adjoining them appear to take the rat population during the summer months, the return of autumn finds them drifting back into the works and sewers and buildings.

The town's sewers were treated and baited as in former years and whilst the results were not serious, they did show the value of this regular and consistent treatment.

The service to all domestic dwellings is provided free of charge, but services rendered to business premises are of course rechargeable upon the owner. We have found excellent co-operation from the towns-people during the year and I am satisfied that a regular and systematic service is well worth its costs. Visitation by rodents if neglected quickly produces a condition of serious infestation, which is both harmful and in some instances frightening to residents. Prompt action, on the other hand, prevents the new arrivals from multiplying. The results of the work prove one thing, however, that there is no end to the necessity for treatment. If rats and mice are to be kept down, then action must be regular and consistent.

The Council continues to retain its membership in the Local Advisory Group and your Officers attend the meetings of the Group, so keeping abreast of technical developments.

Details of the work are as follows:-



### Sewer Treatment

#### 1952/53 Maintenance Treatment II

No. of manholes baited.....	36
No. of clear takes.....	10
No. of part takes.....	4

#### 1952/53 Test Baiting

No. of manholes baited.....	112
No. of clear takes.....	-
No. of part takes.....	1

#### 1953/54 Maintenance Treatment I

No. of manholes baited.....	52
No. of clear takes.....	2
No. of part takes.....	27

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### Surface Treatment

No. of infestations treated:-

Rats - Major.....	66
Minor.....	185
Mice.....	82
Total.....	333

### Types of Property Treated

<u>Property</u>	<u>Rats.</u>		<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>		
U.D.C. Property	13	47	10	70
Business Premises	14	30	35	79
Dwelling houses	39	107	37	183
Agricultural Property	-	1	-	1

Details of treatments:-

<u>Property</u>	<u>No. of baits laid.</u>	<u>No. of baits taken.</u>	<u>No. of bodies found.</u>
U.D.C. Property	1242	645	40
Business Premises	1141	656	70
Dwelling Houses	2483	1440	196
Farms	14	8	-

<u>Property</u>	<u>No. of Inspections carried out.</u>
U.D.C. Property	89
Business Premises	63
Dwelling Houses (Blocks)	235
Farms	37

## STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT

Normal inspections and supervision of premises storing both petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures were carried out during the year. Alterations were again carried out to one or two existing stores and there were a few new installations set up during the year.

Fifty-nine licences were issued, authorising the storage of 478,862 gallons of petrol and 20,350 gallons of petroleum mixtures.

## TOYS FOR RAGS

This class of offence does occur from time to time, the principal offenders being rag gatherers from outside the district. Our local traders appear to observe the conditions without question, but it is necessary to keep a close watch throughout the district at all times. A favourite method is for the dealer to visit a school at 12-0 noon, distribute literature to the children on their way home, and then to carry on the trade as the children return to school between 1-0 p.m. and 1-30 p.m. We are occasionally able to contact these traders, but one of the greatest difficulties is to secure their correct names and addresses. Wherever possible we secure the assistance of a police officer, but even so difficulties arise.

During the year one prosecution was undertaken but great difficulty was experienced in tracing the person concerned. When finally he was found it was in one of H.M.Majesty's prisons where he was confined on a more serious charge. We did not press our case.

The practice of dealing with school children is one which should be eliminated, but it is feared that a recent High Court decision defining the status of a gold-fish will tend to increase the trade. I cannot but feel that new legislation is necessary to not only prohibit absolutely rag gatherers dealing with school-children, but also to provide for the licensing or registration of such persons in order that identification can be accurately made at the time of interview. For officers to take particulars, local authorities to consider cases, and court officials to issue summonses for persons who are probably entirely fictitious is absolute waste of time and effort.

## MARINE STORE DEALERS

This trade is well established in the area. Five premises are registered, all of which are visited. In addition to the staff of this Department, several police officers are authorised to act as officers under this section of the Act.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

Premises registered under this head comprise two gut scrapers, two tripe boilers, one fat melter and two rag and bone dealers. All premises were visited and found to be well maintained.

## THE PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

As in the previous year the three premises are registered under this Act, all of which are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

## HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

As reported in the previous year hairdressers and barbers are registered under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. During the year there was one new registration and one transfer. There are now 39 premises registered under this section.



## RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are no factories existent in the area actually preparing rag flock, but one premises is used for upholstering and has been registered. The provisions of the Act appear to have been complied with.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTION 50.

As in previous years I am the authorised officer of the Local Authority for this section of the Act. During the year it was necessary to arrange the burial of one person.

## MORTUARIES

The two mortuaries at Cinder Lane and Glass Houghton continue to serve the needs of the township. They are both limited in size and do not provide the ancillaries which modern practice demands in a mortuary. I would strongly urge the building of a new central mortuary of greater capacity and possessing refrigerated storage accommodation, post mortem room and other necessary facilities. In the meantime we maintain our existing structures as well as possible.

## SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS AND NUISANCES FOUND.

Nuisances found in 1953.....	856
Nuisances carried over from 1952.....	242
Total requiring abatement.....	1098
Abated during 1953.....	896
Outstanding at the end of 1953.....	202

Notices served: Formal...	336	Complied with...	315
Informal..	667	Complied with...	771

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

As in former years this section of the report covers the work of refuse collection and disposal, street cleansing and public conveniences. All the figures refer to the financial year ended 31st.March,1954.

In any review of this very extensive service one must inevitably bring repetition of former reports. It is therefore with no apology that I stress that clean streets, regular removal of refuse and the hygienic disposal of waste material are all essential to the health of the community. In organizing and supervising this service, this aspect is never lost sight of. Unfortunately the cost of the service ranks fairly high in the scheme of town expenditure and we not infrequently find our ideas and ideals curbed by the ultimate costs thereof. In the post-war years there has been a steady increase in both wage rates and material costs, increases which are quite beyond the control of the administrative officer, and which, having to be met, result in all round increases in the service expenditure.

In this field of activity it is not possible to reduce the amount of work to be done in order to bring down the cost; streets must be swept almost daily and dustbins emptied at least once weekly. The problem is further heightened by the ever increasing number of dwelling houses and their complimentary street surfaces. The new housing schemes add work on the outskirts of the town without reducing that in the centre, and whilst we have not yet felt the full impact of the new Water Fryston scheme, we can already visualize some of the extensions which will be demanded of the present service.



The workings of the year show that the salvage of waste paper and cardboard and the reclamation of scrap metals produced an income somewhat greater than cost, and whilst the profit can be offset against collection costs generally, we look forward to even better results. 1953, without reaching the boom figure of 1951, showed an improvement over 1952, and we hope that this was indicative of a more stable market.

Refuse Collection and Disposal. This service was maintained on a once weekly basis.

As in former years the working week was compressed into five days during the months March to October, but extended to 5½ days during the winter months. The vehicles engaged on the work are two Dennis Paxit rear loaders, two Karrier C.K.3 side loaders, two Karrier Bantams, one electric vehicle, all engaged whole-time, and one other vehicle operating part-time.

One of our great problems continues to be the quantity and weight of refuse to be moved, particularly during the winter months. With so many of our houses still occupied by more than one family, and with liberal supplies of coal, available to mine workers, the ash content of the dustbins is particularly high. The wear and tear on the dustbin is also rather severe, and the life of the bins in this area one would estimate at being much shorter than in other parts of the country. In the past difficulty has been found in securing replacements, but during the last year the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951 were of assistance in improving the position. One can however appreciate the burden that ashbin replacement forms on this class of property.

Controlled Tipping. continues to be our principal method of disposal, although the destructor gives excellent service in disposing of noxious matter and trade waste. The tips are still maintained at Redhill Drive, Oxford Street and Three Lane Ends. At all three sites the work has been of a very routine nature almost devoid of especial interest.

At Redhill Drive the tipping level is being gradually and steadily raised, work during 1953 being largely confined to the eastern end. One incident of note did however occur here in the late autumn, when the presence of a number of crickets led to an investigation below the crust of tipping. At depths of up to three feet the insects were found packed into empty tins and bottles. They were extremely sluggish and gave all the appearance of having settled down to a winter's hibernation. The area was extensively treated in the hope that a major infestation had been avoided, but during the summer of 1954 the presence of a few indicate that total elimination was not in fact achieved. The ability of these insects to survive through the winter months and to multiply so rapidly in the warm weather is almost unbelievable, and their presence in a tip is always a source of embarrassment.

At Oxford Street work of reclamation has progressed steadily and we are now very near to completion. We are at the moment tipping at what is virtually the last level and in less than two years time only the artificial appearance of the ground levels will indicate the site of a quarry whose flooded condition constituted a menace to the child life of the area.

Work at Three Lane Ends has fluctuated according to the demands at Oxford Street, but here again reclamation is steadily taking place. The land already filled and covered is now well under cultivation. The site appears to be excellent allotment ground and whilst most of the gardens are devoted to horticulture, some at the north-east corner have been allocated for pig keeping. Being well removed from all dwelling houses they should embarrass no one.

In both the field of collection and disposal every endeavour was made to recover and sell materials of value. The improvement in the waste paper market is reflected in the increased tonnage of paper despatched to the mills, whilst there is a notable increase in the amount of scrap metal salvaged during the year.

The following statistical information will be found of interest.

Collection. Refuse collected during the year was as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts	
Ashbins	19,034	6	Estimated
Ashpits (Dry)	411	10	"
Ashpits (Wet)	104	10	"
Shop Refuse	936	4	"
Cesspools	5,039	5	"
Total	25,525	15	

The gross cost of this amounted to £17,962.

In addition the Department removed 340 tons 4 cwts of refuse from the Market premises, the cost of which was borne by the Markets Committee.

As in former years tradespeople and others conveyed material to the destructor and to the tips. That to the destructor amounted to 158 tons 6 cwts, but the amounts to the tips are not ascertainable.

Tips. Materials disposed of at the tips were as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts
Ashbins	19,034	6
Ashpits (Dry)	411	10
Ashpits (Wet)	104	10
Destructor Waste	203	10
Street Sweepings	1,455	12
Gully Cleansing	1,105	10
Total	22,314	18

In addition there was the unascertainable trade waste and covering material.

Destructor.

	Tons	Cwts
Shop Refuse	936	4
Market Refuse	340	4
General Trade Waste	158	6
Total	1434	14

Materials salvaged during the year were as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts		
Waste Paper	368	0	Gross Value	£2317
Scrap Metal	133	0	"	" £456

The gross expenditure on disposal was £4929, but with the income from salvage of £2780 this was reduced to a net figure of £2149.



Street Cleansing. The Department is responsible for the cleansing of some 44 miles of road and some 7,984 gullies. The work is partly manual and partly mechanical. Two mechanical sweeper collectors are employed whole-time, principally on main traffic roads. They are supported by thirteen street sweepers who are divided through the area according to the needs of the district. The town centre is swept every morning between the hours of 7-0 a.m. and 9-0 a.m. by a small gang of men, who on completion of the work, revert to their own individual districts. In the Airedale district a small gang of three men operate together using an electrically propelled pedestrian controlled street orderly cart. This appliance came into commission during the year replacing a horse and cart taken on hire. The machine has been found to be ideal for the purpose; two men act as sweepers, whilst the third man (in charge of the machine) acts as picker-up. By this arrangement sweeping continues steadily forward without the inconvenience of either pushing a hand barrow or disposing of the refuse collected at frequent intervals. As the truck will hold 1 ton by weight, it is only necessary for it to visit the tip at noon and in the evening, thus effecting a great saving in both time and effort. During the winter months it was found most serviceable for street gritting purposes and was used very regularly on the roads adjacent to its base. There is every indication that this machine is the answer to the problem of ageing men and increasing litter. I feel that this machine can very well be added to and other parts of the town reorganized into the gang system. I am more than satisfied that it is the answer to street sweeping in our new housing schemes.

The street gullies are cleansed by the two vacuum gully emptier machines, but as these are called upon to empty cesspools, flush and deal with sewers, plus many other problem works, the frequency of gully cleansing is not what one would desire. The time is fast approaching, particularly when the new housing schemes are requiring service, when an additional machine will be needed. As in the previous summer, the washing of the streets in the town centre was undertaken on a number of occasions, when the hot dry weather tended to both unseal the street gullies, and at the same time produce overheated conditions. The use of water and disinfectant was greatly appreciated by both shop-keepers and shoppers, and I feel that the practice should be undertaken whenever atmospheric conditions demand it. In these days of food hygiene, when the screening of foodstuffs against dust and dirt is so strenuously urged by the Local Authority, it seems more than necessary that they themselves should take all steps possible to keep the street surfaces under control.

One cannot report on street cleansing without once again referring to the increasing quantities of litter and the ever present fouling of footpaths by dogs. Whilst all possible effort is being made nationally to convince our people of the need for tidiness and cleanliness, the condition of our public streets continues to deteriorate. Although litter baskets are provided very many people continue to throw litter on to the street surface without thought. The practice of exercising dogs on public footpaths only leads to gross fouling and the practice is to be greatly deprecated.

The seasonal work caused by frost and snow was again not unduly heavy. The main problem is to meet the requirement of the early morning traffic to and from the collieries, and the system instituted in 1951 of a small gang turning out at 4-0 a.m. during the months of January and February, was again resorted to. When conditions demanded it gritting was carried out, but on clear mornings their services were directed to other works. The system certainly meets the needs of our local conditions with extremely satisfactory results. In times of severe frost and after snowfall, the refuse collection vehicles and men are seconded to gritting and salting, and it is very helpful to be able to turn over adequate staffs at short notice. The use of salt both reduces the amount of removal work and at the same time speeds up clearance.



Cost Statement, 1953/54

It is interesting to report that for the first time since the war the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have instituted a standard Costing Return for the Public Cleansing Service, and I herewith give the information forwarded on the prescribed form.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	% of total gross expenditure
	1	2	3	4	5
	<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>	£	£	£	%
1	<u>GROSS EXPENDITURE:</u>				
	(i) Labour	10 301	3 332	13 633	60
	(ii) Transport	7 631	8 92	8 523	37
	(iii) Plant, etc.	30	2 58	2 88	1
	(iv) Other items.	-	4 47	4 47	2
	(v) Total gross expenditure	17 962	4 929	22 891	100
2	GROSS INCOME (including £... received from other local authorities	5	2 780	2 785	-
3	NET COST	17 957	2 149	20 106	-
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above).	-	-	-	-
	<u>UNIT COSTS</u>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only.	9. 9	3. 2	12. 11	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only.	7. 2	10	8. 0	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton.	16. 11	2. 0	18. 11	
		£	£	£	
8	Net cost per 1,000 population.	422	50	472	
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	14 36	172	1 608	

(b) Street Cleansing.

Item	Particulars	Street Sweeping and Watering	Street Gully Cleansing	Total	% of total gross expend- iture.
	1	2	3	4	5
	<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>	£	£	£	%
1	GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
	(i) Labour	5294	285	5579	57
	(ii) Transport	3295	745	4040	41
	(iii) Plant, etc.	127	-	127	1.3
	(iv) Other Items.	68	-	68	0.7
	(v) Total gross expenditure.	8784	1030	9814	100
2	GROSS INCOME (excluding reimbursements from Ministry of Transport and the County Council.	-	78	78	-
3	NET COST	8784	952	9736	-
4	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE met from revenue (included above)	-	-	-	-
5	GROSS EXPENDITURE on snow clearance not included previously.	673	-	-	-
	<u>UNIT COSTS</u>	s. d	s. d		
6	Net Cost (per street mile cleansed)	29. 0	-	-	
		£	£	£	
7	Net cost per 1,000 gullies cleansed.		119		
8	Net cost per 1,000 population.	206	22	228	

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The public accommodation consists of a central block at Bradley Street with accommodation for both men and women, a small unit at Airedale for men and women, and urinal accommodation for men only at Wheldon Lane, Bridge Foot, Carlton Street, Cambridge Street, Whitwood Mere and Glass Houghton. All have been overhauled during the past few years and are in good condition. At Bradley Street the men's section is visited and cleansed morning and evening, but has no permanent attendant. The women's accommodation is provided with an attendant who is responsible for cleaning and supervision. The other accommodation receives a thorough cleansing each morning, with a visit for minor attention later in the day.

There still exists an urgent need for additional accommodation and I would again stress the early commencement of a programme of new buildings.

## STAFF

The staff of the Department remained unchanged throughout the year and was as follows:-

Deputy Sanitary Inspector	-	Mr.J.Rooke
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	-	Mr.C.Rhodes
		Mr.A.J.Lindsay
		Mr.J.Lucas
Technical Assistants	-	Mr.B.Schofield
		Mr.D.Morgan
Clerical Staff	-	Miss D.J.Lane
		Miss J.Wakelin
		Mrs J.Muscroft

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion I would again express to the Council my appreciation of the confidence placed in me, and again thank my colleagues in other Departments for their help and co-operation.

To the staff of the Department, both indoor and outdoor I would express thanks for the loyal assistance given. I would particularly thank Mr.J.Rooke for his assistance through the year and in the preparation of this report, and also Miss D.J.Lane, the senior member of the clerical staff, both for the typing of this report and for the lead given in the routine work of the Department.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

E.J.WINFIELD.

Sanitary Inspector and  
Cleansing Superintendent.

Sanitary Department,  
Cinder Lane,  
Castleford.  
16th.September,1954.







